

Volunteering provides excellent chance to meet people and to engage in communities. Volunteers serve many very different roles in many organizations. Finding the right opportunity for you can take patience and time. Below are some options that may help you achieve your volunteer goals:

Library Champions

The Library Champions Project offers an excellent volunteer opportunity designed for immigrants. Libraries in Vancouver and Burnaby are using this program to raise awareness amongst immigrant communities about library services. Champions are given an extensive training and commit to three months of community outreach. Potential Library Champions should be:

- 19 years of age or older
- A permanent resident, but not yet a Canadian citizen
- Enthusiastic about libraries
- Interested in sharing information about library and settlement resources with other newcomers

For more information, please check www.newtobc.ca/newcomer-resources/champions-project/

Visit your Local Volunteer Centre!

Most communities have a volunteer centre which may be able to help you in your search for volunteer opportunities. Here is a listing of centres you might try:

Surrey: www.options.bc.ca

Burnaby: www.volunteerburnaby.ca

North Vancouver: www.nscr.bc.ca/volunteer/volunteer.html

Richmond: www.volunteerrichmond.ca

Tri City area: www.volunteerconnections.net

Community Centres and Neighbourhood Houses

Your volunteer opportunity may be as close as your local Community Centre or Neighbourhood House. These centres offer many programs – for children, for families, for youth. Programs could involve food, sports, socializing and more. Drop in to learn more about their programs and how volunteers assist to deliver them!

Here are a few examples:

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House: www.southvan.org/

Burnaby Neighbourhood House: www.burnabynh.ca/

Collingwood Neighborhood House: www.cnh.bc.ca/about/volunteering/

Gordon House: www.gordonhouse.org

Kiwassa Neighbourhood House: www.kiwassa.ca

Britannia Community Services Centre: www.britanniacentre.org/community/volunteer

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity builds affordable housing for community partners. Volunteers and community members participate in the building of these homes. They also have several stores in Metro Vancouver that refurbish and sell building materials, furniture and garden supplies. These are called Restore and depend on volunteers to repair, move and sell the products.

Learn more here: www.habitat.gv.ca

Working Gear Clothing Society

This organization provides interview clothing and industry appropriate gear to low income or job searching men. Volunteers help by sorting the donations, creating displays, and administrative support. Volunteers are often needed and immigrants are welcome.

Learn more here: www.workinggear.ca

Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society

The Greater Vancouver Food Bank (GVFB) is committed to ending hunger by providing healthy food, education and training in Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminister and North Vancouver. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Community outreach
- Food Warehouse work
- Administrative support

For more information: www.foodbank.bc.ca